

Note to the Reader

When I began to think about publishing this booklet, the title I had in mind was *Covid Reflections*, but I soon realised that this would miss the point. True, it was the Covid crisis – and, in particular, public reaction to it – that moved me to make three responses of my own – two articles and a discourse.¹ Yes. But why should I now publish them as a booklet? For three reasons:

1. To present the material to a wider audience.
2. To give the material greater permanency.
3. Although these pieces were prompted by Covid, the material applies to any and every other epidemic or disaster, whether individual or worldwide.

For these three reasons – especially the last – I submit this short work to the public, hoping that despite the obvious Covid references it contains, it might prove useful to those who, in days to come – for whatever cause – find themselves in similar circumstances. Specifically, I hope it will contribute to a proper understanding of the permanent issues involved in such large questions. Not least, I hope that it might be used of God to bring sinners – and, by nature, we are all sinners – to face the certainty of death, and to prepare for it by trusting Christ.

Hence the title I have settled on: *Catastrophe Reflections*.

I was encouraged in my work when I discovered that certain public reaction to two rail disasters in 1861 had prompted C.H.Surgeon to preach a sermon in response, and that his

¹ ‘The Real Virus’; ‘Missing Notes in the Covid Chorus’; ‘Christ & Covid’ on my sermonaudio.com page. ‘Covenant Theology, Christ & Covid’ in this booklet is an article based on the ‘Christ & Covid’ discourse.

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sermon is still speaking over a hundred and sixty years later.
Who knows what might happen to these pages?